



National Congress Bulletin

DECEMBER 1951

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Dear Friends:

As I wish for you a happy Christmas surrounded by family and friends, may I also wish for you the profound joy of sharing with family and friends a Christmas worship service, joining with millions over the world who are sending forth paens of praise and thanksgiving mingled with prayers for an honorable peace.

We will be remembering that love for a child cradled in a manger two thousand years ago has held and still holds, in these years of tension and trial, compassion, sympathy, and grace in the hearts of mankind. It is love for a child—for your child, your neighbor's child, and thus for all children—that binds more than six and one-half million of us in the purposeful fellowship we know in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers today. Our Christmas joy will be enhanced by the knowledge that each of us—as we regard each other—sees first the image of a child.

A Shared Concern

The school lunch is an old project for many parent-teacher leaders but one that requires new adjustments in many communities. Time was when the food for the noon luncheon supplement was prepared in the kitchen of a near-by home and brought to school just in time to be served. Teachers and parents shared in the work of serving and clearing up the lunchroom. Some of the supplies were solicited from school patrons and others were purchased with the money contributed by those who could afford to pay for the extra hot food. Parent-teacher committees accepted full responsibility for all arrangements, and the local association purchased the necessary equipment to carry out the program.

Now with the help of federal and state funds the school lunch has become a school-sponsored enterprise, and frequently parent-teacher leaders find themselves relieved of accustomed tasks and responsibilities. Let us realize however that our obligation to this important project remains and that obligation may

be as vital or even more vital than it was in 1908 or 1920 or in the transition days of winning public approval for federal legislation authorizing the present financial support.

Today we have an important interpretive job. Unless the public understands the *educational* significance of the noon-day meal and its effectiveness in promoting the growth and development of the children, it is not likely that we can continue to secure adequate appropriations for its support. The school lunch is not "charity" even for those children who cannot pay its small cost. It is not a process of socialization. It is an investment in the health and well-being of America's young citizens.

As adult citizens we acknowledge responsibility for the well-being of our fellows as well as of ourselves. Hence we seek to guarantee adequate food for every child while we are attempting to develop a society in which every able-bodied person accepts responsibility for providing food, clothing, and shelter for the members of his own family.

We recognize in the school lunch a way to help provide for the immediate nutritional needs of children while we build public and parental interest in the total growth of children and the relation between the *well-nourished child and the progress of society*.

* * *

Next month we will again join with millions of other Americans in all parts of the world to help make the March of Dimes a success. I am sure you realize that a parent-teacher association does not make contributions to other organizations out of its treasury, and it does not accept responsibility for the campaigns of other groups. But as responsible citizens, sensitive to the needs of children stricken by polio, we will give our help as individuals to make the annual campaign a success, and we will give from our personal funds as usual to ensure further research directed toward eradication of the dread disease and to secure the care and treatment needed for thousands of victims struggling valiantly for recovery. It is an



MAKE CHRISTMAS Safe for Children

You can help to prevent many a tragic accident if you will urge grown-ups to follow these simple rules in selecting Christmas toys for small boys and girls.

1. For babies: Avoid toys with small removable parts and poisonous paint.
2. For two- to three-year-olds: Avoid objects with sharp or rough edges, marbles, beads, and flammable toys.
3. Three- to four-year-olds: Avoid too heavy toys, sharp toys, and poorly made objects that may splinter.
4. Four- to six-year-olds: Avoid target toys, ill-balanced tricycles and wagons, poisonous painting sets, and sharp cutting objects.
5. For six- to eight-year-olds: Avoid nonapproved electrical toys, sharp-edged tools, poorly made skates, conductible kites, and shooting toys.
6. For eight-year-olds and older children: Avoid chemistry sets, air rifles, dart games, bows and arrows, dangerous tools, and electrical toys unless to be used under adult supervision.

opportunity to strengthen the defenses of our country.

* * *

December is "Gift-for-Children" month to benefit our headquarters fund. I am sure that you will want to remind P.T.A. members and friends that their special gifts in honor of, or in memory of, children will help to build our permanent headquarters, which will be a living symbol of our devotion to children and our pledge to safeguard their heritage of freedom.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs. John E. Hayes, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS ARE DOING...



Gold Brick Bazaar

An opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts as well as to aid the national headquarters building fund will be given to all who attend the Illinois Congress radio and television school of instruction December 4-6 at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. A feature of these sessions will be a festive Gold-Bricks-for-Headquarters bazaar.

During November members and friends of the state's 1,841 local units contributed household gadgets, hand-work, and other appropriate gift items. These have been packed in small, brick-shaped boxes by the energetic bazaar committee and wrapped to resemble gold bricks, which will be sold for one dollar each at a gaily decorated holiday booth on the mezzanine floor of the hotel. A large attendance is expected at the school of instruction, to be conducted by Mrs. Elizabeth Marshall, state radio and television chairman.

Mrs. Milton L. Wiener, chairman of the Illinois Congress national headquarters committee, announces that a second Gold Brick bazaar will be held at the state convention in April. She has also suggested that P.T.A.'s throughout the state plan similar projects to help finance the reception room that Illinois has pledged as its share in building our new home.

California District Builds a Health Center

The Los Angeles Tenth District of the California Congress recently saw completion of its modern, three-story Health Center building. In addition to a children's clinic the building houses the state and district offices and the editorial office of the *California Parent Teacher*.

The need for such a project is emphasized by a state law that permits school health examinations for children but forbids free medical and dental care. At the new clinic a small registration fee will be charged for every patient. Those who are able will be expected to pay for the treatment they receive, but no child will suffer for the lack of needed care. Each case will be carefully checked through cooperation with school authorities. To prevent a lack of clothing from keeping children out of school, arrangements have also been made to supply yard goods, children's clothing, and sturdy shoes to those whose parents are unable to afford them.

Part of the cost of operating the center will be shared by the Community Chest, and expenses will be reduced further by the service of volunteer workers. The Tenth District is assured that the new Health Center will do much to help provide "An Equal Opportunity for Every Child."

GIFT-FOR-CHILDREN

**National Congress of Parents and Teachers
600 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago 5, Illinois**

Date _____

I am enclosing \$_____ as a Gift-for-Children Month contribution. This is a token of my deep interest in the welfare of children and a desire to have a part in helping to build a national headquarters that will be dedicated to their service.

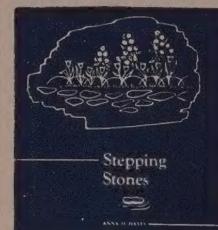
Name _____

Street and Number _____

City, Zone, and State _____

Make check or money order payable to National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Kansas Steps Ahead with STEPPING STONES



We are happy to announce that sales of *Stepping Stones*—the collection of poems so graciously donated to the national headquarters fund by the author, our national president

—have now reached a total of more than 4,000 copies.

At the top of the list of state congresses is Kansas, which has sold 557 copies. In second place is Washington, with 406, and Georgia is close behind, with 390. Other leaders among the states are Nebraska, with 254; Tennessee, with 202; Alabama, with 150; Texas, with 123; Illinois, with 116; Virginia, with 111; and Arkansas and Oregon, each with 104. (These figures include only those copies for which payment had been received at the National Office by November 15, 1951.)

Copies of this attractive booklet may be obtained at your state office or direct from the National Office. The price is forty cents a copy, of which twenty-five cents is credited to the headquarters fund.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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PARENT-TEACHER... 1951-52

Legislation PROGRAM



APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

I. POLICIES

(Amendments approved by the National Board of Managers on May 24 and September 27, 1951, appear in *italics*.)

Local Control

In all federal child welfare legislation we recommend the inclusion of provisions that will insure maximum local control.

Federal Grants-in-Aid

In all federal grants-in-aid to states we support provisions that will place their administration in whatever regularly constituted federal, state, and local agencies are best qualified, in their respective fields, to administer them.

Education

a. We favor the establishment of the United States Office of Education as an independent agency of government under the general direction of a policy-making federal board of education composed of laymen appointed to long, staggered terms, such board to have authority to appoint the United States Commissioner of Education to serve as its executive officer.

b. We believe that the integrity of our free public school system should be maintained and strengthened. To that end we support the policy that any or all programs of an educational nature to be administered through the public schools should be channeled through the U.S. Office of Education and thence through the state and local departments of education, and that these programs should be administered with a maximum of local control. Any other programs operating in the schools should be integrated into the regular school curriculum and should be administered as outlined above.

Federal Aid for Education

a. We believe that it is necessary for the federal government to appropriate funds to supplement those raised by

local and state governments to provide adequate educational opportunities for all children and youth. We support the principle that any such funds appropriated by the federal government should go to publicly controlled, tax-supported schools only.

b. We believe that federal funds should be appropriated for the purpose of equalizing educational opportunity among the several states, with provisions ensuring (1) distribution according to need, such need to be determined on the basis of established facts, which shall serve as a foundation for a specific formula for apportionment; (2) maximum local and minimum federal control; and (3) encouragement to the states to put forth their highest efforts to equalize educational opportunities within their own boundaries. This aid should include funds for libraries and for the education of handicapped children.

c. We believe that federal funds should be appropriated to give aid in the construction of public school buildings, after competent, approved surveys have been made. These funds should be channeled from the U.S. Office of Education through state departments of education to the local units of administration. Money should be made available to the states on the basis of an objective formula that would take into account both the need for school facilities and the relative ability of the states to meet such a need. States should be encouraged to set forth principles for equalizing the distribution of state and federal funds, giving special consideration to school administrative units with relatively low financial resources and to areas especially affected by rapid and substantial increase in school-age population.

d. We believe that federal funds should be used to provide educational opportunities for the children of government employees on federally owned property.

e. We believe that federal funds should be used to provide, through the U.S. Office of Education, adequate programs of health and physical fitness for children and youth.

(Wherever a health program is administered by the health department, the school authorities will secure health services for school children with the cooperation of the health department.)

f. We believe that federal funds should be used for such programs of adult education as affect the welfare of children and youth.

Vocational Education

We recommend the increased control of vocational education by state departments of education, so that vocational and general education may be effectively integrated.

(When the first federal funds for vocational education were appropriated, boards were set up at federal and state levels that did not include school people, and the vocational program was carried on under the authority of those boards. Now that vocational education is under the U.S. Office of Education, the amount of funds appropriated for it is large in proportion to those allotted to the other services of this agency.)

Rural Security

We support the continuance of the basic principles of rural security including supervision and guidance services to families, in whatever agency this program is put.

(We support this program because it enables families with children to borrow money for buying and equipping farm homes. Under its rules, supervision, and guidance, many families of tenant farmers or sharecroppers are made self-reliant and self-supporting home owners. Thus the program enables the children in such families to have better schooling, better food, and better health.)

Child Care Centers

We approve the principle of child care centers—made available to children of employed mothers; adequately staffed and supervised by appropriate agencies; and jointly financed by public funds and parents' fees or by funds from public or private agencies.

Child Labor

We support such federal legislation as will give necessary protection to child workers, with special emphasis on the establishment of (a) a basic minimum age of sixteen for employment; (b) a higher minimum age for employment in hazardous occupations; and (c) a minimum wage provision for minors.

Child Life Research

We support legislation that will provide adequate appropriations for a continuing program of integrated child life research.

Health

We recommend increased public support of equalized health and health education opportunities for all children and youth.

We support continued federal appropriations to maintain maternal and child health services and services for crippled children.

Merit System

We recommend the extension of the merit system for civil employees, both state and national.

(The interest of the National Congress in the application of the merit system lies in our desire to see child welfare services administered by people qualified to do so rather than by political appointees.)

Disposal of Surplus Materials and Supplies

We believe that unneeded educational, medical, and recreational materials and supplies purchased but no longer used by the armed forces should be released to the proper public agencies—local, state, and national—for use in developing programs of education, health, and recreation throughout the United States.

International Relations

We support the United Nations and its component parts as the best basis for international cooperation.

National Defense

We believe that we must work diligently for world peace by use of all possible United Nations channels to achieve economic, social, physical, and spiritual welfare for all children and youth through education for citizenship in an interdependent world. It is nevertheless necessary in this time of world tension to maintain a military establishment capable of going into effective action in defense of the nation.

The administration of these emergency military measures should ensure the maximum opportunity for education for responsible and effective democratic citizenship.

We believe that all efforts should be made to meet the need for military manpower from the pool of eligible adults before inducting persons under twenty-one years of age.

We insist, also, that all persons be thoroughly trained and properly equipped before being sent into combat.

In the event that the Congress of the United States should establish a program of universal military training for the expansion of our manpower resources in the armed services, this training should be:

1. A temporary program for the emergency period only, rather than a permanent measure of military conscription.

2. Universal in its application to all young men, beginning at the age 18. (This does not imply combat service.)

3. Confined to a period of not more than six months of basic military training for each person concerned.

4. Conducted with full recognition of the health, educational, and spiritual needs of young people.

5. Operated through the military facilities of the nation in order that young men be trained in areas within reasonable proximity to their homes.

6. Supervised by a national advisory commission comprising both military and civilian representatives.

7. Combined with a continuing educational program.

8. Administered to provide for further education following basic military training for those persons with special abilities in the sciences and the essential professions as determined by regularly constituted civilian educational authorities.

9. Established not to provide a large and permanent standing army but to strengthen the defense of the nation through a civilian reserve of manpower available for immediate and full-time military service to meet any emergency with which our country may be confronted.

Recreation

We recommend increased public support for adequate community recreation services.

We encourage the support of state agencies authorized to assist local governments in setting up recreation programs.

II. ACTIVE PROGRAM**Child Labor**

1. We support ratification by the states of the child labor amendment.

(Eight more states must ratify this amendment before it can become a law.)

2. We oppose legislation that would weaken the protective child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended in 1949.

Adequate Support for Certain Federal Offices

We support adequate appropriations* for the following federal departments, offices, and agencies.

(This report on final budget should be read in connection with the June-July *National Congress Bulletin*.)

1. U.S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency.

(The sum of \$900,000 to be used for vocational education in the distributive occupations was restored to the budget for vocational education, making the total amount for vocational education, exclusive of the cost of administration, \$18,948,261. The appropriation for school operation in districts distressed by federal activities was increased by \$40,000,000. The law provides that in the event that appropriations are insufficient to meet the needs of qualified districts, payments to each eligible district must be cut proportionately. The additional funds will obviate the necessity for such reductions.)

2. Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(This important research agency, which year after year operates on a restricted budget, felt the ax that fell on many research agencies. The Senate sustained the House cuts.)

3. Children's Bureau, Federal Security Agency.

(For operating expenses of the Bureau, \$1,500,000 was allowed, a restoration of the \$50,000 cut by the House below last year's budget. Not more than \$1,238,900 may be used for personnel. The total appropriation for maternal and child health, child welfare services, and

*By "adequate appropriations" we mean that we support the recommendations of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget, which investigates the requests of each department carefully every year at the time that the budgets are being recommended.

ervices to crippled children was \$31,500,000, million and a half dollars below the budget (quest.)

4. Federal Extension Service, Department of Agriculture.

The sum of \$30,000 was cut from the budget for salaries and expenses, leaving a total appropriation of \$27,985,000.)

5. U.S. Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency.

(The appropriations for venereal disease, tuberculosis, and communicable diseases control received further relatively small cuts. The total for hospital construction was increased to \$182,500,000. Final allotments were: National Cancer Institute, \$19,500,000; National Mental Health Institute, \$10,518,987; National Heart Institute, \$10,000,000. Dental health activities received \$1,598,654, a restoration of \$98,654 cut from the sodium fluoride demonstration program by the House.)

6. Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency.

(The final appropriation was \$5,300,000, about \$33,000 more than last year.)

7. Bureau of Labor Standards, and Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor.

(A reduction of \$75,000 was made in the Bureau's budget request. This will affect the program of research and the development of regulations. The Wage and Hour Division had proposed increases in its funds for promotion of compliance and enforcement. The Division received \$8,000,000, which is \$740,000 less than requested and \$364,000 less than the current year's funds. Child labor laws cannot be enforced unless this agency has money to do the job.)

Federal Aid for Education

1. We reaffirm our policy as expressed above in item "a" under "Policies—Federal Aid for Education." This statement reads as follows: "a. We believe that it is necessary for the federal government to appropriate funds to supplement those raised by local and state governments to provide adequate educational opportunities for all children and youth. We support the principle that any such funds appropriated by the federal government should go to publicly controlled, tax-supported schools only." We support legislation that would provide grants-in-aid for publicly controlled, tax-supported schools; allocations to states on the basis of relative per capita income and school-age population; and provisions for a minimum foundation program to serve as a guide for equalizing educational services within the states.

(Congressman Graham Barden of North Carolina has introduced a federal aid to education measure, H.R.4468, which meets the requirements of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers policy. Principal provisions are:

a. \$314,500,000 per year appropriated to states, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.

b. Purpose declared in title, "helping to establish and maintain an adequate minimum program of education and attempting to more nearly equalize educational opportunities in public elementary and secondary schools."

c. The funds are to be apportioned to the states on the basis of an objective formula in direct ratio to the number of school-age children and in inverse ratio to the ability of states to support their public schools.

d. Funds may be used for (1) salaries of teachers in the public elementary and secondary schools; (2) salaries of supervisory, administrative, and maintenance personnel for such schools; (3) laboratory equipment; and (4) maintenance of public school buildings.

e. States may not reduce own support of schools below level of support from state and local sources for year ending June 30, 1950.

f. Federal money must be distributed so as to raise current expenditures for each school as nearly as possible to \$150 per year for each pupil in average daily attendance.

g. Funds will be channeled through the U.S. Office of Education and state educational agencies.

h. Judicial review is provided in case disagreement occurs concerning administration of the funds.

i. No flat guarantee per pupil is provided for every state.)

2. We recommend that the education of Indian children be administered through state departments of education and that adequate federal appropriations be given to furnish educational opportunities equal to those of other American children.

3. *We support legislation to enable the states to make more adequate provision for special services required for the education of physically handicapped children of school age, as provided in S.1463 (Hill, Douglas, Humphrey, Lehman, Murray, Neely, Pastore, Aiken, and Morse, same bill as S.3102 in the Eighty-first Congress).*

(Appropriations ranging from \$4,000,000 for the first year to \$16,000,000 for the fourth and succeeding years will be channeled through the U.S. Office of Education and state departments of education. Provision is made for cooperation with the several related services of the Children's Bureau. The state agency will present a plan providing for state matching funds; showing policies and methods of administration, supervision, and training of personnel; providing methods of identifying the cost of special educational services required for the education of physically handicapped children; and indicating policies concerning distribution of funds between rural and urban areas and among types of services. Each state will receive \$25,000, plus additional funds apportioned according to number of children and financial need.)

Health

We support legislation to assist the states in the development and maintenance of local health units as provided in S.445 (Hill and others), H.R.274 (Priest), and H.R.913 (Dolliver), the Local Public Health Units Act of 1951.

(S.445 provides for the development and maintenance of local public health units organized to provide basic full-time public health services and to assist the states in the training of personnel for local public health work. Allotment of matching funds is to be made on the basis of population and the financial need of the states for assistance to provide basic public health services for all persons within the state. The basic public health services necessary for the well-being of every community are control of communicable disease, environmental and food sanitation, health education, collection and analysis of vital statistics, public health laboratory services, and maternal and child health services.

(S.445, Hill and others, passed the Senate 38-35, on March 16, 1951. This measure is exactly like S.522, in the Eighty-first Congress. H.R.913, Dolliver, and H.R.274, Priest, while providing for similar financing of the program, define the scope of public health more narrowly, restrict the powers of the Surgeon General in setting performance standards, limit federal participation to the emergency period, and give priority to defense areas. It is to be hoped that no narrow definition of public health services will be written into the bill that finally becomes law, as such restrictions might affect programs already in operation. It is obviously also our belief that the program of federal assistance should extend beyond the emergency period.)

International Relations

It is the policy of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to support the United Nations and its component parts as the best basis for international cooperation. Our principal legislative concern is support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; the Food and Agricultural Organization; the World Health Organization; and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

(The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF] received, you will recall, \$5,750,000 for last year's operation, an allotment included in a deficiency appropriation bill along with appropriations for many other purposes. For this year's operation, bills S.2079, Green, and H.R.5382, Richards, have been introduced, calling for the appropriation of \$12,000,000, the amount originally requested for last year's appropriation.)

Library Service

We believe that the basic purpose of federal grants in the library field should be to extend public library service to all people on an equitable basis keeping in mind needs in rural areas especially. Accordingly, we support legislation to improve public library services by pro-

viding federal funds to be channelled through the U.S. Office of Education to state library agencies for use in promoting library service according to the pattern best suited to state needs. We believe that this legislation should be terminal, should insure maximum local and minimum federal control, and should provide for variable matching grants on an equalization basis.

(S.1452 [Hill, Douglas, and Aiken] meets all the above requirements. The bill provides for extension of library service to rural areas where service is inadequate or completely lacking. The policy statement of the bill stipulates maintenance of maximum local control and noninterference with local initiative. The appropriation authorization is for \$7,500,000 for each of five years beginning with the year ending June 30, 1952. Fixed allotments are provided for the territories, and each state is to receive an allotment based upon the size of its rural population. Additional funds will be given each state on a matching basis, determined by the state's per capita income. The official state library administration agency must present a plan for administering the federal funds. Library service must be free to the public; the states must not cut their own appropriations for library service; and no federal money may be used for purchase of land, or for purchase or construction of buildings.

(Several almost identical bills have been introduced in the House: H.R.5190, Patman; H.R.5195, Tackett; H.R.5216, Jenkins; H.R. 5221, Elliott; H.R.5222, Morton; H.R.5227, Mitchell; H.R.5229, Steed; and H.R.5311, Bailey.)

Postal Rates Increase

We oppose legislation that would eliminate special rates for the mailing of library books and the special second-class mailing rates now available to non-profit organizations such as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

(The recent postal rates increases do not affect these special mailing privileges.)

School Lunch

We support adequate appropriations to carry out the school lunch program as provided in Public Law 396.

(A cut was made in personnel budget, leaving a total appropriation of \$83,367,491.)

Alcoholic Beverages

We support legislation to prohibit transportation in interstate commerce of paid advertisements of alcoholic beverages or the broadcasting by means of any radio or television station of any advertisements of alcoholic beverages.

(Since the power over interstate commerce is vested in the federal government, states where the sale of alcoholic beverages is illegal are powerless to prevent these practices or to regulate them by state law.)

Priority for School Building Construction

We support measures that will give a top priority for materials, equipment, and supplies for school buildings after major military needs of the United States have been met.

Emergency Maternity and Infant Care

We support the principle of the development of a program to provide maternity and infant care for wives and infants of enlisted men in the armed forces similar but not identical to the emergency maternal and infant care program in effect during the last war.

a. The Department of Defense estimates approximately three and one-half million as the strength of all branches of the armed forces in the fiscal year 1952 of which probably one million will be married enlisted men—one-third of the enlisted personnel. It is estimated that there will be 240,000 births to wives of these men in 1952, with not more than 70,000 of these births occurring in military hospitals.

b. Although wives of servicemen are accepted for maternal care in military hospitals to the extent that facilities are available for them after care is given military personnel, distances and transportation and other costs make it difficult or impossible to use this service unless the wives live close to the hospitals.

c. The quarters allotment in the lower pay grades will not cover food, rent, and clothing for wife and children and savings for doctor and hospital bills incidental to confinement as well as prenatal and postnatal care.

d. Funds of the army, navy, and air force relief societies are needed for meeting the demands created by a wide variety of circumstances that do not include such normal and natural expenses as those for maternal and infant care.

e. The American Red Cross reports a striking increase in requests for assistance in paying for maternity care, but chapter funds are not regularly used for this purpose, which is not defined as an emergency except in most unusual circumstances.

f. Local public hospital care is often unavailable to resident wives of servicemen because they are eligible for care in military hospitals. In other areas local public hospitals will provide for emergency deliveries but will not give prenatal and postnatal care when women do not meet residence requirements.

g. The regular maternal and child health programs are open to wives and children of servicemen as to other residents of the community, but these programs, except for certain specialized funds, do not provide for delivery care or for the care of sick children and infants. The diversion of present funds for establishing this service seems unwise as they are not more than enough to meet the current program. The addition

of funds to provide for this expansion runs into the problem of state support as the maternal and child health plan is one for matching funds.)

Fireworks

We support legislation that would prohibit the interstate shipment of fireworks or advertising thereof into any state in which the sale of fireworks is prohibited by law. S.1700 (Dirksen) carries both these provisions. H.R.4528 (Church) prohibits shipment alone.

(Some of the state congresses have given active support to the passage of progressive legislation that bans the possession and use of fireworks within their states except by persons granted permits by city or county authorities for the purpose of conducting public fireworks displays under properly controlled conditions. These states, however, continue to see their citizens suffer unnecessary injuries including the loss of eyes, limbs, and even life because of unlawful shipment of fireworks across their borders.

(The National Congress of Parents and Teachers believes in provision of health opportunities for all children and strongly supports programs of health and education for handicapped children. The National Congress has also adopted the principle of upholding the efforts of individual states to protect themselves from inroads of materials outlawed by these states.)

III. INACTIVE PROGRAM

Measures for Which No Legislation Is Pending at Present

1. We support measures to abolish the compulsory block-booking and blind selling of motion picture films.

2. We support the general trend toward grade labeling of products, and we oppose the practice of selling products by grades if they cannot be packed by grades.

3. We support a bill similar to S.1670 of the Seventy-eighth Congress providing appropriations for the extension divisions of state universities and land-grant colleges.

4. We oppose the legalizing of a national lottery.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE CONGRESSES

Laws Governing the Adoption and Guardianship of Minors

Because of serious lacks, abuses, and inequalities discovered in the prevailing system of adoption and guardianship, as revealed in survey reports submitted

by the state congresses of forty-three states, the Board of Managers of the National Congress at its meeting held in September 1942 recommended that the legislation committee of each state congress appoint a special subcommittee to find out whether or not the state laws contain the following provisions:

1. Prevention of indiscriminate placing of children.
2. Establishment of a trial period before entering the order of adoption.
3. Mandatory investigation, by trained workers, of the adoptability of the child before his final transfer into an adopting home.
4. Mandatory investigation, by trained workers, of the propriety of the adopting home.
5. Action to make available to the court in all cases, and to the attorneys in contesting cases, the report and recommendations of the investigating social agency.
6. Requirement that the birth certificate omit any reference to a child's legitimacy or adoption.
7. Prevention of the indiscriminate advertising of children for adoption.

The Board further recommended to the state congresses that: (1) if any one of the aforementioned provisions is lacking, a committee including representa-

tives of the bench, the bar, the medical profession, and welfare and child-placing agencies submit suitable amendments for the next session of the state legislature; (2) when new state laws are to be drafted, specialists in this field be consulted (refer to the Children's Bureau, Federal Security Agency); and (3) the promotion of activities to improve laws covering adoption and guardianship be made a nation-wide parent-teacher project.

Child Labor Laws

During the war more than half the states passed laws or issued administrative orders whereby standards affecting child labor and school attendance were relaxed. As manpower shortages increase, states are again relaxing child labor regulations. It is urged that state congresses be alert to all such efforts; that maximum safeguards be thrown about all workers under eighteen years of age; and that all new emergency-connected work experience programs be planned and supervised by regularly constituted educational authorities.

Keeping Children Out of Jails

Aroused by the fact that thousands of children throughout the United States are arrested each year and held—many for insufficient reason—under brutalizing conditions in county and city jails, the Board of Managers urges each state congress, through its local units to:

1. Find out definitely whether children are held in jails while awaiting court hearing or transfer to other institutions.

(If they are so held, write to James V. Bennett, director of Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for the rating of county or city jail under consideration, and ask for a free copy of the leaflet *The Jail Problem*, which gives detailed instructions on how to inspect a jail.)

2. Make an inspection of the jail. It is important that the visit be unannounced and that juvenile quarters be thoroughly examined. If the inspection reveals unsatisfactory conditions, publicize them through press, radio, public meetings, and the like.

3. Report findings to the penal committee of the state legislature, requesting that a bill to prohibit putting children in jails be framed and passed at the earliest session of the legislature.

4. Bring continuous pressure to bear

until satisfactory laws to this end are passed.

5. Follow up with periodic inspections of jails and continued publicity to make sure that laws are observed.

Correlating Efforts for Child Welfare Legislation

To facilitate and correlate efforts to effect legislation for child welfare within the states, the Board of Managers recommends that state congresses work for the establishment of an official and appropriate state commission or council representative of official state agencies and state organizations concerned with the welfare of children and youth.

Laws Governing Traffic Safety

At its meeting in Denver on May 23, 1946, the Board of Managers added three sections to the recommendations to state congresses. These were as follows: Because of the serious rise in the number of highway traffic accidents following the increase in traffic since the war's end, the Board of Managers recommends that each state congress work for:

1. Enactment of state driver-licensing laws conforming to national standards, to the end that every driver of an automotive vehicle may be physically and morally fitted to drive and fully aware of his responsibility to the public as the operator of a motor car.

2. Enactment of modern, comprehensive, and uniform traffic laws and ordinances.

3. Universal requirement that all owners of motor vehicles carry such liability or property damage insurance—or prove personal responsibility—as will give proof of their ability to pay for personal injury or property damage caused by motor vehicles owned or operated by them.

Fire Prevention

Because of the great losses in human lives and property each year through fires, the Board of Managers recommends that state congresses give full cooperation to governors, mayors, school superintendents, and all officials in the fields of education, engineering, and enforcement in putting into effect these recommendations of the President's Conference on Fire Prevention:

1. Study of existing building codes.
2. Strengthening of state-wide fire prevention laws.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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Mrs. William Kletzer, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers from 1940 to 1943, visited the National Office in Chicago recently and made a special trip to the headquarters lot. Here we see her standing on the ground that your gifts helped to buy.

"This is one of the proudest moments of my life in the P.T.A.," Mrs. Kletzer said. "I can think of only one moment that may be happier—the moment I see the new building. That building will symbolize all that parent-teacher work stands for. No organization in America is more deserving of a building of its own, for no other organization has done more for children and their schools. Mrs. Kletzer was among the first of our 6,589,516 members to contribute to the December Gift-for-Children Fund.

Magazine News

● **Assurance that counts.** There are articles in the December issue of *National Parent-Teacher* that will give parents assurance in dealing with many of the problems that arise daily in homes where there are growing children. And what better service can a P.T.A. render than to give parents an opportunity to subscribe to a magazine that will prepare them for their tasks and responsibilities? You will do the members of your P.T.A. a real favor by calling attention to these articles:

"Youth at the Wheel," by Robert Young
 "Parents and the IQ," by Stuart Courtis
 "Is Your Child Underprivileged?" by Dr. Harold Lynch and Dr. William Snively, Jr.
 "Responsibility Scaled to Size," by Irma Black
 "For the Spirit's Hunger," by Bonaro Overstreet
 "Uncertainties Within," by Ernest Osborne
 "Guiding the Civic Impulse," by Earl Johnson

● **We set a new record.** During October 68,526 persons subscribed to the *National Parent-Teacher!* This is the highest total of any one month to date. Was your subscription one of the 68,526? If so, we take this opportunity to say "Thank you."

● **Christmas gift subscriptions.** Here is a list of persons who will especially welcome a subscription to *National Parent-Teacher*:

Parents who are overseas
 Home and foreign missionaries
 Young folks who plan to be teachers
 Students in theological seminaries
 Exchange teachers
 Students interested in educational journalism

STREAMLINERS

● Alaska's director of civil defense has called the attention of all local civil defense directors to the *Civil Defense Plan for Parent-Teacher Associations*, which appeared in the May issue of the *National Congress Bulletin*. He suggested that the assistance of P.T.A.'s and their leaders be sought in furthering local civil defense programs in Alaska.

● A mothers' patrol was the P.T.A.'s unique answer to the problem of providing traffic protection for the school children of Newburyport, Massachusetts. When the city was unable to supply extra patrolmen at busy crossings, a special meeting was held by the local unit to find a solution. As a result, twenty mothers volunteered for traffic duty one day a week. The plan has been successful, and the patrol members report that motorists have been very cooperative.

● The Ogden, Utah, Council began its fall activities with a campaign to enroll every interested person in the community as a local unit member. Stressing the fact that membership is not limited to parents and teachers, an intensive publicity drive was made. An effective feature was a P.T.A. band wagon float in which children of several nationalities rode. At the end of the campaign membership envelopes were sent to the home of each school child.

● The Scarsdale Council of New York has planned an interesting project. During this winter school children will have the opportunity to see a series of three plays, "Hansel and Gretel," "Dick Whittington," and "Hiawatha," presented by a professional dramatic company in the school auditorium.

● Members of the executive committee of the John Harris High School P.T.A. of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, have visited parents of students who failed to return to school in September and urged that these boys and girls discuss their problems with a faculty adviser. Follow-up calls were made by a member of the school district's child guidance department, and, as a result, several students have resumed their school work.

● Inspired by an article in the *National Parent-Teacher*, twelve P.T.A.'s in Albany, New York, have conducted a successful drive to obtain better films for children.

At first a motion picture program was shown at one of the schools on Friday afternoon. Later the managers of two theaters offered their cooperation in presenting Saturday matinees featuring titles chosen from the "Motion Picture Previews" section of the *National Parent-Teacher*. In turn P.T.A. members serve as volunteer hostesses.

● The 1952 national convention dates are May 19, 20, and 21. The place is Indianapolis, Indiana. Will your local unit be represented?